The A. F. of L. Weekly News Service gives a brief summary of important matters affecting labor, occurring in the industrial, legislative and judicial fields, and such other information as will benefit the trade union movement.

AMERICAN FEDERATION OF LABOR
WEEKLY NEWS SERVICE

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If you have knowledge, let others light their candles at it. —Fuller.

WHOLE NO. 1111. | WILLIAM GREEN, President | WASHINGTON, D. C., SATURDAY, JULY 23, 1932 | FRANK MORRISON, Secretary | VOL. 22, NO. 20.

Nonpartisan Political Policy To Be Continued by A. F. of L.

Executive Council of Federation Says Experience Confirms Wisdom of Such Action—Party Platforms and Records of Candidates Will be Studied.

Atlantic City, N. J.—In its declaration here announcing its determination to adhere to the nonpartisan political policy of the American Federation of Labor in this year's campaign for the election of a President of the United States, the entire membership of the House of Representatives and one-third of the members of the Senate, the executive council of the Federation made the following formal statement relative to principles and procedure:

"The American Federation of Labor has found from experience that the best interests of its entire membership have been protected and conserved through a strict adherence to a non-partisan political policy.

"This procedure requires that the platforms of the political parties must be compared and the records of candidates for office must be carefully studied and scrutinized.

"When all such political information is made available the individual members of organized labor invariably support candidates for office who are known to be friendly and sympathetic toward the aims and purposes of the American Federation of Labor and who enjoy the confidence and esteem of the members and representatives of organized labor.

"The wisdom of such action is clearly apparent when it is considered that the American Federation of Labor is composed of men and women who entertain different political opinions.

"They are not required to become identified with or to support any political party when they become members of the American Federation of Labor.

"After giving consideration to all these facts the executive council of the American Federation of Labor is of the opinion that the membership of the American Federation of Labor should continue to adhere to its nonpartisan political policy during the present political campaign.

"All information regarding platforms, candidates and their records will be compiled by the Nonpartisan Political Committee and submitted to the officers and members of the American Federation of Labor so that they may exercise their political judgment in a way which will be to the individual and collective interest of all wage earning men and women.

"In connection with this very important decision the executive council is taking into consideration the fact that the candidates of the two great political parties for the Presidency of the United States will make important pronouncements upon questions of unemployment and labor in their speeches of acceptance.

"We firmly expect that each of them, in these addresses, will make declarations of great significance to Labor.

"We anticipate that they will express their opinions regarding the present economic condition which prevails throughout the Nation and will amplify the declarations of the platforms of the political parties relating to Labor and labor organizations.

"We will await, with very great interest, the expression of each of the candidates reserving the formation of final decision regarding our future policy during the remainder of the campaign.

"In conformity with this declaration and decision of the executive council, the Nonpartisan Political Committee of the American Federation of Labor is instructed to communicate with National and International Unions, State Federations of Labor, Central State and City directly chartered Local Unions, transmitting to them copies of the platforms of the two political parties and the records of the candidates for the Presidency in the United States of America with a copy of this declaration.

"Furthermore, the records of candidates for the United States Senate in the different States and candidates for the House of Representatives shall be supplied for general distribution throughout the different States and Congressional districts."

AFL COUNCIL OPPOSES SEA SAFETY TREATY

Atlantic City, N. J.—The executive council of the American Federation of Labor adopted a resolution urging President Hoover and the U. S. Senate to refrain from ratifying the proposed treaty on safety of life at sea pending in the Senate Committee on Foreign Relations.

The council held the effect of such ratification "will be to surrender the rights of Congress to enact laws to determine the conditions under which vessels, foreign as well as American, are to be permitted to operate out of American ports and will also have the effect of nullifying certain vital sections of the seamen's act and of the inspection laws."

13,000,000 JOBLESS PREDICTED BY GREEN

AFL Executive Council Regrets Failure of Congress to Enact Adequate Relief Measures—Food Riots Visioned Flowing from Social Unrest.

Atlantic City, N. J.—The executive council of the American Federation of Labor expressed its keen disapointment with the last Congress in failing to enact what labor considered adequate measures for relief of unemployment as well as a constructive agricultural relief bill.

Speaking for the council, William Green, president of the Federation, expressed the opinion that the unemployment situation is becoming "increasingly menacing," and that unemployment is growing. He said the Federation's experts estimated that there would be 13,000,000 jobless the coming Winter as compared with 11,000,000 at present. Last Winter the number of jobless was estimated at 7,000,000.

He was certain that the relief demands this Winter would be so great as to swamp the resources of local relief agencies.

"Many people who contributed to community chests last Winter are now looking for help themselves," he added.

"I do not want to be an alarmist," Mr. Green asserted, "but there are evidences of serious social unrest due to the unemployment situation. The bonus army is an example of the unemployed discontent.

"Those who are flocking to Washington are idle men unable to get work. That is a menacing situation because of the possibility of rioting.

"While I do not think there is any danger that constituted authority will be overthrown, the situation is disturbing and food riots may lead to social disorder."

AFL COUNCIL APPOINTS CAMPAIGN COMMITTEE

Atlantic City, N. J.—The executive council of the American Federation of Labor appointed a National Nonpartisan Political Campaign Committee to supervise the campaign in behalf of the policy of the A. F. of L. during the next four years. The members of the Committee are:

William Green, president of the American Federation of Labor.

Martin F. Ryan of Kansas City, treasurer of the Federation and president of the Brotherhood of Railway Carmen.

Matthew Woll of New York, third vice president of the Federation and first vice president of the International Photo-Engravers' Union of North America.

A. Richert of Chicago, second vice president of the Federation and president of the United Garment Workers of America.

The nonpartisan committee will send to all affiliated organizations the labor records of candidates for various Federal offices, as well as analyses of party platforms.

Republican, Democratic Platforms Are Both Unsatisfactory to Labor

A. F. of L. Executive Council Finds That Party Leaders Included But Few of Labor's Recommendations—Green Summarizes Action of Both Conventions on Federation's Proposals.

Atlantic City, N. J.—The executive council of the American Federation of Labor, at its summer session here voiced, after disagreement with both the Republican and Democratic platforms and announced that it would adhere to its nonpartisan policy during this year's Presidential campaign.

Although the Republican party's platform contained more planks favoring organized labor's proposals than did the Democratic platform, the council declared that neither party had handled labor's program satisfactorily.

"We have compared the platforms of both parties and compared them with our own recommendations," said William Green, president of the Federation. "We are considerably disappointed, as neither covered our proposals as fully, completely and definitely as we had expected. The fact that a number of our proposals were not incorporated by either party was also a disappointment."

Mr. Green gave the following summary of the recommendations which the American Federation of Labor made to the Republican and Democratic conventions and the action of both conventions in regard to them:

Injunction—On the antitrust laws to permit mergers and trade associations beneficial to labor, agriculture and industry, the Republican platform was silent and the Democrats "evasive."

On curtailment of the injunctional coal industry, through the Davis-Kelly bill, both parties were silent.

On the right of labor to organize, Republicans were in accord and Democrats were silent.

Free Speech and Press

Freedom of speech and press, Republicans were in accord and Democrats were silent.

Both parties went on record in favor of shorter work weeks and working hours in acceptance of labor's policy of distributing available work among the greatest number.

Republicans expressed themselves in favor of high wages; Democrats were silent.

Both parties ignored labor's recommendation for Federal appropriations for the relief of unemployment through huge public works program.

Both ignored labor's plea for a scientific study of the causes of unemployment.

Both ignored a request for a study of technological unemployment and displacement of men by machines.

Both ignored recommendations for a vocational training program to overcome difficulties occasioned by technological unemployment.

Immigration

Republicans favored a continuance of restriction of immigration, but made no specific pledge; Democrats were silent.

Both parties were vague on labor's proposal that Federal funds be appropriated for loans to States to feed and clothe the destitute.

Republicans accepted labor's recommendation that Puerto Rico be treated as a State in the distribution of Federal relief; Democrats were silent.

Both parties declared for speaking generally of "child welfare," on the child labor amendment.

Democrats favored the repeal of the Volstead Act, permitting beer; Republicans were silent.

Republicans were vague and Democrats silent on proposals for larger appropriations for the Bureau of Labor and statistical divisions of the Department of Labor.

Higher wages and standards of living for Government employees were ignored by both parties.

Democrats suggested State laws and Republicans ignored a plea for old-age pension laws.

Both ignored a request for liberalization of the Federal retirement law.

Democrats favored employment of American citizens on the Panama Canal; Republicans were silent.

"Our position in regard to prohibition is too well known to be an issue at this time," said Mr. Green in commenting on the liquor planks of the two platforms. "However, the Democrats did go on record for modification of the Volstead Act as soon as possible and the Republicans did not.

Position on Dry Law

"We have taken no position on the question of repeal, believing that modification can be accomplished by Congress overnight, while it will take years to bring about repeal. One-third of the States could block repeal. But it is within the power of Congress to bring back 2.75 per cent beer and restore employment to thousands and incalculable revenue to Government funds.

"Feeding the hungry, supplying the partial needs of those who are in distress, meeting the minimum relief requirements, day by day, of millions of our fellow citizens dependent upon them offers no solution for the nation's economic ills.

"The return of those idle millions to work with a guarantee of work security is the great question which is of primary and transcendent importance. Even if industry and our financial institutions are to be saved, idle people must be returned to work, the buying power of the nation must be increased, security values must be restored and a fair degree of economic equilibrium must be reestablished.

"How can this be done? What real remedy can be applied? What is the solution of our economic problems?

"These are questions which thinking people are asking themselves.

"Labor offers the answer and labor offers the remedy."

Shorter Hours Necessary

"Obviously, industry as now mechanized cannot supply work for more than 50,000,000 working men and women in the United States six days per week and long hours per day.

"The Nation must either give up machinery or give up the long work week and the long work day.

"If we are to do the work of the Nation with the operation of mechanical processes and the substitution of power for human toil we must adjust the work-time, the number of days worked per week and the number of hours worked per day, so as to conform to the increased productivity of individual workers and of industry.

"No thinking person would willingly see the human race deprived of the benefits of machinery and power nor would he be willing to retrace his steps on the path of progress which the Nation has made.

"We must not willingly see civilization perish.

"We must appropriate the benefits of scientific invention and industrial progress for the enjoyment and use of all mankind.

Living Standards Lowered

"Machinery and power must make life more tolerable and must not be permitted to lower living standards and to promote social discontent.

"The hour has arrived when these adjustments in working time are imperative and must be made.

"The people of the Nation have suffered altogether too long because of the failure of industry to recognize this fundamental principle. Economic conditions are worse, unemployment is more widespread, security values are lowered and long-established equities have been completely destroyed.

"There is no excuse for any objective performed or urged by industry during this entire depression which stands to its credit and set it in opposition to industrial management which holds the key to its situation.

"The owners and managers of industry own and control it.

"Labor cannot apply economic and industrial policies or adopt industrial practices where it does not own or manage industry.

"Labor can urge and advise the active cooperation of economic, industrial and social remedies.

Relief No Solution

"It offers remedies because, out of its long experience, economic training and careful study it is certain that the remedies it offers will supply the relief needed.

"It is the one remedy which can be quickly applied and which in the process will restore jobs for millions of working men and women who are now idle and who are suffering from hunger, distress and want.

"Surely these idle people have some claim upon our economic, political and social order.

"Labor holds that they may properly demand the right to work.

"Industrial management can make vital and active the exercise of this right by making an equitable distribution of the amount of work available.

Failure of Private Industry

"The failure of industry, industrial management and industrial ownership to correct the situation automatically through the national Chamber of Commerce, trade associations, chambers of financial organizations, to allocate the available employment to the people, all who are able and willing to work, makes it necessary to call upon the Chief Executive of the Nation, speaking for the people and supported by public opinion, to demand, in the name of all the people, that industrial management institute immediately the shorter work day and the shorter work week, and installed industries, but in a national way and upon a national basis.

National Industrial Cut Conference

"For the purpose of bringing about the establishment of the shorter work day and the shorter work week the executive council of the American Federation of Labor directs its president to request the President of the United States to call a conference of the representatives of all industry in the United States and the representatives of labor for the express purpose of discussing with the end that employment, of creating work opportunities for millions of idle men and women through the adoption and application of the five-day work week and the six-hour work day.

"The executive council calls upon the President of the United States, through the president of the American Federation of Labor, to assist labor and industrial leaders to establish the shorter work week and the shorter work day upon a national basis so that local inequities which might follow the adjustment of working time in this way may be avoided, and the full economic benefits of this policy may be brought to bear in relief to all the branches of industry and to those connected with them.

Situation Is Menacing

"The executive council finds justification for this decision and this recommendation in the grave and menacing unemployment situation which now exists and which has increased with appalling rapidity during the past more than three years.

"We offer the plan herein outlined as labor's immediate remedy for unemployment.

"We challenge industrial management to offer a better plan.

"We realize the exigencies and the gravity of the situation demand action.

"We cannot delay longer.

"The time has arrived for industrial management to act.

"The executive council of the American Federation of Labor now demands and shall continue to demand that industrial management be compelled to act through the pressure of public opinion expressed, as we hope it will be, through the Chief Executive of the Nation."

A. F. of L. Puts 5-Day Week And 6-Hour Day Up to Hoover

Executive Council of Federation Decides to Ask the President to Convene a Conference of Representatives of Industry and Labor to End Unemployment by Applying Shorter Work Week and Work Day—Right to Work Must Be Made a Fact—Relief Measures Do Not Solve Jobless Problem—Machinery Must Not Be Used to Lower Living Standards—Plans of Trade Bodies Offer No Solution—Green to See the President About Conferees.

Atlantic City, N. J.—In a statement unanimously approved by the owners and managers of private industry for their failure to apply the shorter work week and work day as a remedy against the vast unemployment for over ten million jobless workers and payrolls, and in the future, the executive council of the American Federation of Labor decided to ask President Hoover to convene a conference of representatives of industry and labor to develop a plan for the early application of the five-day week and six-hour day to all the 50,000,000 working men and women in the United States.

The council held that under machine production it must apply the five, the number of hours worked per week, and the number of hours worked per day, so as to avoid the increased productivity of the individual workers and of industry.

"Obviously," the council said, "industry as now mechanized cannot supply work for more than 50,000,000 working men and women in the United States six days per week and long hours per day. The Nation must either give up machinery or give up the long work week and the long work day."

The executive council directed William Green, president of the Federation, to take up the proposal for the national conference immediately with President Hoover as soon as the council adjourned.

Members of the executive council found precedent for the conference in the industrial meeting at the White House on the unemployment when President Hoover urged employers not to reduce wages.

The Council's Statement

Following is the complete text of the executive council's statement:

"The tragedy of the existing unemployment situation lies in the hunger, distress, the destruction of past and spiritual values and the impairment of the confidence of millions of people in our Nation's economic system and in the wisdom of its governmental institutions.

"However, the inadequacy of industrial management to apply constructive, practical measures for the relief of unemployment does not excuse and will not as a contributory cause to the nation's continued distress.

"The old procedure adopted by industrial management has been to reduce wages, to destroy buying power, and as a result increase unemployment and injure both labor and capital.

Effects of Wage Cuttin

"After three years of wage-cutting and of the destruction of buying power, unemployment is greater, economic conditions are worse, unemployment is more widespread, security values are lowered and long-established equities have been completely destroyed.

"There is no excuse for any objective performed or urged by industry during this entire depression which stands to its credit and set it in opposition to industrial management which holds the key to its situation.

"The owners and managers of industry own and control it.

"Labor cannot apply economic and industrial policies or adopt industrial practices where it does not own or manage industry.

"Labor can urge and advise the active cooperation of economic, industrial and social remedies.

Relief No Solution

"It offers remedies because, out of its long experience, economic training and careful study it is certain that the remedies it offers will supply the relief needed.

"It is the one remedy which can be quickly applied and which in the process will restore jobs for millions of working men and women who are now idle and who are suffering from hunger, distress and want.

"Surely these idle people have some claim upon our economic, political and social order.

"Labor holds that they may properly demand the right to work.

"Industrial management can make vital and active the exercise of this right by making an equitable distribution of the amount of work available.

Failure of Private Industry

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"The executive council of the American Federation of Labor now demands and shall continue to demand that industrial management be compelled to act through the pressure of public opinion expressed, as we hope it will be, through the Chief Executive of the Nation."

5-Day Week, 6-Hour Day

"If nothing else pointed the way or emphasized the need for such action, during the great industrial depression which now prevails is sufficiently convincing to cause industrial management to recede from the position it has assumed, to yield to the inevitable facts and to place the industry of the Nation upon a five-day week and six-hour work day basis.

"The call of the moment is to the patriotism, the conscience, the common sense and the good judgment of industrial management, which really holds the key to this situation.

"Mindful of these facts, the American Federation of Labor solemnly declares its purpose to exert every effort at its command to bring about the establishment of the shorter work day and shorter work week basis at the earliest possible moment.

COAL STABILIZATION BILL ENDORSED BY AFL COUNCIL

Atlantic City, N. J.—The Davis-Kelly bill for the stabilization of the coal industry, which failed of enactment at the recent session of Congress, would be kept in the legislative program of the American Federation of Labor, another attempt made to obtain its passage at the December session of Congress, William Green, AFL president, president of the Federation, at the Summer session of the Federation's executive council here.

The principal features of the Davis-Kelly bill are:

The creation of a Federal bituminous coal commission to fix the expenses of which shall be borne by the coal industry.

The requirement that coal mining corporations doing an interstate business shall obtain a Federal license.

The provision that licensed corporations may join a selling pool or joint selling agency for the marketing of their product.

The stipulation that employes of coal mines shall have the right of collective bargaining, the right to organize, and the right of self-help.

GREEN REPORTS PROGRESS ON GOMPERS MEMORIAL

Atlantic City, N. J.—William Green, president of the American Federation of Labor, reported to the executive council of the Federation in session here that Robert J. Aitken of New York, the sculptor commissioned to fashion the $110,000 Samuel Gompers Memorial, had completed preliminary sketches for the work. The memorial will be unveiled in Washington in October, 1932.

AFL Wants Red Cross Relief Garments Made by Free Labor

Atlantic City, N. J.—The executive council of the American Federation of Labor, in session here, authorized William Green, president of the Federation, to confer with John Barton Payne, chairman of the American Red Cross, relative to plans of that organization to make to recede from the 50,000 bales of cotton purchased by the Government in its price stabilization program and donated to the Red Cross to relieve destitute families.

"The executive council," Mr. Green said, "was a bit apprehensive that perhaps the cotton might be fabricated into garments in prisons or mills where wages are low and working conditions bad. This would affect union garment workers who have standard rates of wages.

"It was directed by the executive council to see Mr. Payne and Government officials to discuss their plans for the manufacture of garments from cotton purchased for the needy and to prevent garments from carrying out their policy, if such a policy is contemplated, of having the goods made in prisons or under sweatshop conditions."

Jurisdiction Dispute Heard By AFL Executive Council

Atlantic City, N. J.—Considerable time was spent by the executive council of the American Federation of Labor at its Summer session here in discussing a jurisdictional dispute between the United Brotherhood of Carpenters and Joiners of America and the Wall Paper Machinists. Each union claims jurisdiction over the work of millwrights, who erect factory buildings for installing processes which are now mainly metal.

Legion Hunt for Jobs Found Work for Million

Atlantic City, N. J.—Matthew Woll, who represented the American Federation of Labor in the War Against Depression Committee recently organized by the American Legion, the Association of National Advertisers and the A. F. of L., reported that the campaign had been a success in so far as it had resulted in obtaining 1,000,000 temporary or permanent jobs. However, he said, it could have been a much greater success had the original object been attained, to have 1,000,000 employers each take on one additional worker.

GREEN URGES FEDERAL LOANS FOR SCHOOLS

A. F. of L. President Says Educational Budget Cuts Are Depriving Children of Education.

Atlantic City, N. J.—William Green, president of the American Federation of Labor, declared the executive council of the Federation at its Summer session here would give special attention to educational budgets because of the drastic curtailment of educational activities in many communities. He pointed out that if economy programs that called for the discharge of teachers continued, it would mean the breaking down of the morals of the teaching staffs.

He deplored the failure of some cities to pay teachers for months at a time, and in this connection advocated loans by the Reconstruction Finance Corporation to cities whose board of education had been unable to raise funds for teachers' salaries. In some cases, he continued, a loan from the Government is the only thing that will prevent schools from closing.

"Every child should have an equal opportunity to education," Mr. Green said. "The American Federation of Labor always has fought for the upbuilding of the public school system. It is the cornerstone of democracy."

Hollywood Airplane Pilots Organize for Protection

Atlantic City, N. J.—Airplane pilots employed by Hollywood motion picture studios, assistant directors and script clerks employed by motion picture tumers and a group of allied employes informed the executive council of the American Federation of Labor at its session here that they had formed a strong organization and asked the Federation's assistance in negotiating contracts governing their crafts.

It also was reported that the "stunt" men employed by the studios were organizing a union and that they planned to ask for a charter direct from the Federation.

One of their grievances was reported to be that "outsiders" had invaded their field with offers to risk their necks in staged automobile accidents and thrilling "leaps for life" in airplanes for a mere $5 a month.

"Gag" on Federal Workers Fought By American Federation of Labor

RELIEF BILL INADEQUATE, A. F. OF L. COUNCIL SAYS

Atlantic City, N. J.—The executive council of the American Federation of Labor expressed deep regret that the so-called unemployment relief bill jammed through the last days of the recent session of the U. S. Congress at Washington was a puny attempt to meet a drastic condition.

William Green, president of the Federation, said the relief afforded by the measure was inadequate. "It may mean that a special session of Congress will have to be called by Winter to deal with the problem of unemployment. We do not see how a special session can be avoided, as the appropriation in the bill is insufficient to meet the requirements of the unemployment situation. The adjournment of Congress will not help the economic situation. Something more definite and concrete must be done."

LABOR DISAPPOINTED BY BEER BILL FAILURE

Executive Council of A. F. of L. Says Volstead Act Amendment Would Give Jobs to Thousands—Bill Will Be Urged on Congress in December.

Atlantic City, N. J.—The executive council at the American Federation of Labor, at its summer session here, expressed the great disappointment of organized labor at the failure of Congress to modify the Volstead Act and legalize the manufacture and sale of beer containing 2.75 per cent of alcohol by weight. The council stated that the forces of labor will urge the passage of the modification bill as soon as the short session of Congress convenes in December.

William Green, president of the Federation, in announcing the policy of the executive council, declared that modification of the Volstead Act was part of organized labor's employment program.

In explaining the liquor-legislation program of the American Federation of Labor, Mr. Green said:

"We favor modification to permit the sale of 2.75 per cent beer for two reasons. First, we are convinced that this would promote true temperance and would do away with the rank profiteering that has grown out of the liquor statutes.

"Second, and this is perhaps of more importance, great economic benefit would follow modification of the Volstead Act. We are asking that the Volstead Act be modified because we are convinced that it cannot be done without repeal of the Eighteenth Amendment. We want to do something constructive while attempts are being made to repeal the Eighteenth Amendment. There is no doubt that public sentiment toward repeal of the amendment has changed.

"If the Volstead Act were amended it would put many thousands to work in breweries, machine shops, cooperage and on the transportation and freight lines. At the same time a tax on beer would give the Government a revenue which it so badly needs. A $1,000,000,000 worth of bonds, which could be issued for a huge public-works program, would initiate a program of reforestation.

"That is why we pressed for modification of the Volstead Act before the adjournment of Congress. Now that Congress has adjourned we propose to take up the issue to Congressional candidates and to associate their views on the proposal in order that we may fight for modification as soon as Congress reconvenes.

"We shall press this issue because it is part of our employment program including letter carriers, postal clerks, railway mail clerks, and employes in public printing offices and navy yards. These employes are organized in such unions as the Railway Mail Association, the National Federation of Post Office Clerks, the National Association of Letter Carriers, and the National Association of Railway Clerks.

It was also clear to the executive council that if the ruling of the Civil Service Commission in this case is held to stand, attempts would be made to apply the gag policy to State and city civil service bodies.

Executive Council Says Civil Service Rule Forbids Expression of Political Opinion—Green Denounces Postmaster General's Stand.

Atlantic City, N. J.—The executive council of the American Federation of Labor made public today its protest against the attempt of the United States Civil Service Commission and Postmaster General Walter F. Brown to gag several hundred thousand Government employes in the expression of their political opinions.

The protest grew out of the reaction of the Civil Service Commission and the Postmaster General to the mailing of a circular letter by W. M. Collins, president of the Railway Mail Association, with headquarters at Washington, D. C., to members of the Association in Minnesota, where members of the U. S. House of Representatives are to be elected in November.

The letter contained the record of Congressmen on the economy bill which took over $80,000,000 from the annual wages of Government employes, and suggested that it would be "entirely proper" that "you should remember your friends at the polls."

Although Mr. Collins is not a Government employe, the Civil Service Commission has ruled that the letter violated the law and declared that "what an employe may not do himself he may not employ agents or officers or choose other persons to do."

Postmaster General Brown, under whose jurisdiction the members of the Railway Mail Association come, concurred in the declaration of the commission.

In announcing the executive council's action, William Green, president of the A. F. of L, said:

"The executive council holds that despite the announcement of the Civil Service Commission, the officers of the Federal organizations have the right to inform their members of the records of Congressmen on the economy bill which employes are in the Government service-legislation which affects their political rights. Such rulings as these caused the repeal of the gag law in August, 1912, which had attempted Government employes from communicating with each other concerning acts of Congress affecting their interest.

"The Civil Service Commission's ruling strikes at the very fundamentals of the organized labor movement which is based on the right of the workers to select representatives of their own choice who may transmit information to them from time to time on matters of interest to them jointly.

"The labor movement will not permit without protest and opposition establishment of the principle embodied in this order of a censorship of Federal Government employes.

"Federal Government employes are penalized on the basis of the civil service ruling we will endeavor to follow two courses. First, we will initiate legislational investigation to determine if there has been a transgression of law by Government employes, and if it is necessary to protect the rights of these employes we will initiate legislation in Congress to that effect."

Postmaster General Brown's statement based on the civil service ruling, Mr. Green said, is "out of line with the Postmaster General is in sharp contrast with the recent activity of Attorney General William D. Mitchell, who called upon all appointed officers of the executive branch to support the candidacy of President Hoover."

The executive council expressed the belief that the Civil Service Commission's attempt to gag Government employes would affect approximately 500,000 persons on the Government pay roll, including letter carriers, postal clerks, railway mail clerks, and employes in public printing offices and navy yards. These employes are organized in such unions as the Railway Mail Association, the National Federation of Post Office Clerks, the National Association of Letter Carriers, and the National Association of Railway Clerks.

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Boy Scout Uniforms Made By Union Labor

Sweet-Orr & Co., Employing Members of United Garment Workers of America, Gets Big Five-Year Contract—Uniforms Formerly Made by Nonunion Concern.

New York—James E. West, chief executive of the Boy Scouts of America, and Stanley A. Sweet, president of Sweet-Orr & Co., announced a contract under which Sweet-Orr & Co. will manufacture uniforms, equipment and accessories for the Boy Scouts of America. Members of the United Garment Workers of America will be employed exclusively in making the goods called for by the contract, which involves an annual business of about $1,500,000. The articles will carry the label of the Garment Workers' Union.

Sweet-Orr Distributors, Inc., has been formed as a subsidiary wholly owned by Sweet-Orr & Co. to handle all Boy Scout materials.

Five factories will be devoted to making Boy Scout uniforms and equipment, located in Newburg and Wappingers Falls, N. Y.; Philadelphia and Pottstown, Pa., and Joliet, Ill. Workers will have an opportunity to increase their earnings and in the short time additional workers will be put on.

The new line will be sold from three big distributing depots for Boy Scouts products located at Newburgh, N. Y.; Joliet, Ill., and Philadelphia. Each of these three shipping points will serve the nearest of about 2,500 retail dealers on uniforms and accessories, who in turn will sell to the Boy Scouts in the 12,000 formed adults of 600 councils. Sweet-Orr salesmen will act as contact men with the Boy Scout executives in these cities.

The Boy Scout uniforms, previous to the signing of the five-year contract with Sweet-Orr & Co., were manufactured under non-union conditions.

Stanley A. Sweet, president of Sweet-Orr & Co., is a member of the executive board of the American Federation of Labor, and associates in the A. F. of L., the Railroad Brotherhoods, and the Union Label Trades Department of the A. F. of L. for their loyal support in the promotion of the sale of garments bearing the union label of the trade. He was mighty proud to be able to dress the Boy Scouts, the grandsons and sons of its members with Boy Scout uniforms bearing the union label of the United Garment Workers of America.

He further stated that one of the benefits to be derived by the Boy Scouts is an approximately one-third reduction in prices on uniforms.

Sweet-Orr & Co. have had contractual relations with the United Garment Workers for forty-one years.

AFL COUNCIL INDORSES FEDERAL FIVE-DAY WEEK

President Green Says Government's Example Will Help Shorter Hours Movement in Private Industry.

Atlantic City, N. J.—The executive council of the American Federation of Labor were pleased on learning that President Hoover had approved the principle of the five-day week for Government employes as recommended by his Council on Personnel Administration, of which Thomas E. Campbell, president of the U. S. Civil Service Commission, is chairman. The council declared the new policy would be a great encouragement to the movement and the forerunner of the shorter work week in private industry.

William Green, president of the Federation, in expressing the sentiment of the executive council, said: "If we can in agreement with Mr. Campbell's conclusion that the shorter work week in Government departments would contribute very largely to relieving the effects of the depression, absorbing unemployment and the spread of employment.

"We regard this action on the part of the Government as recognition of a very vital economic and social reform which the labor movement has long contended for many years," he added.

Mr. Green pointed out that the effect on the efforts organized labor is putting forth to have the five-day week established in the shorter work week in regard this action as a great step forward in the establishment of the five-day week."

Mr. Green pointed out that the American Federation of Labor had opposed the reduction in pay of Government employes on a percentage basis, or in lieu of that, adopt the furlough plan, the A. F. of L. gave official approval to the adoption of the furlough as the lesser of two evils. Under the furlough plan standard rates of pay in Government service are maintained.